

REMARKS

There are objections to the drawings. The examiner did not find a description of item 48 in FIG. 4C. The examiner's attention is direct to the paragraph beginning at the bottom of page 8 which identifies item 48 as the solution processed thin film transistor. Regarding FIG. 4A, a proposed drawing correction is submitted to change "14" to "34" as correctly observed by the examiner. The examiner did not find a description of item 40 as shown in FIG. 5B. The examiner's attention is directed to repeated references in the specification the "transistor channel 40", including in the paragraph discussing FIGs. 5A – 5C on page 9, e.g. at line 30. A proposed amendment to FIG. 5B changes numbers 10 and 12 to 30 and 32, consistent with the specification and FIG. 5C. This addresses the objection to FIG. 5B. Substitute formal drawings including the proposed changes are also submitted herewith, and acceptance is requested upon approval of the proposed changes.

The examiner objects to the specification. At page 4, line 4, the examiner indicates that "-200" should be changed. It is believed that the symbol appearing at that point has been misread, it is not a negative symbol, but the symbol indicating approximation, and thus the "~200" recitation is correct. The "transistor device 8" on page 10 was incorrect, and has been amended to the "transistor device 29", consistent with the specification and FIGs. 3A-3C and FIGs. 6A and 6B. The "transistor device 48" of FIG. 7 on page 10, is correct in the specification, but the proposed drawing changes include a change to add an appropriate reference numeral to FIG. 7. The examiner's assistance in discovering these informalities is acknowledged and appreciated.

Claims 1, 30, 34, and 44 stand rejected under §112. The rejection is traversed on the grounds that the phrases pointed to by the examiner were sufficiently clear to be understood by artisans from the claims. Regarding claim 1, for example, the article "the" in a claim does not require that the exact phrase subsequent to the article have been previously recited verbatim for the claim to be clear, especially in method claims where a previous step produces or makes use of the thing subsequent to

the article “the”. Applicants, by the rules and MPEP, are given leeway in the manner of claim drafting, and the examiner’s preference for the manner of antecedent references, if not met, does not render a claim indefinite. In any event, if the language was awkward, in the opinion of the examiner, the extent of informality does not arise to that which renders a claim indefinite under §112: meaning that the claim could not be understood.

Applicants choose to address the examiner’s concerns to expedite prosecution. The changes result in a re-phrasing of the claims to meet the examiner’s preference, without altering their scope or meaning. The changes are now explained. Claim 1 has been re-phrased so that a verbatim recitation for the manner of formation of the active region is included in the last phrase of the claim. The nature and scope of the claim is unchanged.

With regard to claim 30, the examiner’s objection should be withdrawn. “The material state” refers to an inherent characteristic of a semiconductor material, and is as appropriate as a reference in a claim to “the earth” or “the atmosphere”, or “the hardness of (a material recited in a claim)”, etc. “Inherent components of elements recited have antecedent basis in the recitation of the components themselves. For example, the limitation ‘the outer surface of said sphere’ would not require an antecedent recitation that the sphere has an outer surface.” MPEP §2173.05(e). The same is true with respect to claim 34, as a step of coating inherently produces a coating, but Applicants make that explicit now to meeting the examiner’s preferences by amending claim 30 to recite “coating a surface with a coating”. With regard to claim 44, the rejection should be withdrawn, as there is a single, clear, prior reference in the pre-amble for each of “the gate contact” and “the transistor”. The plurality in the recitation of contacts is clear as there being at least one each of a source, drain and gate contact, and it is permissible (see, again, MPEP §2173.05(e)) to recite them in the fashion of claim 44.

The above is believed to address each of the examiner's concerns. Having fully responded, Applicants request reconsideration and allowance of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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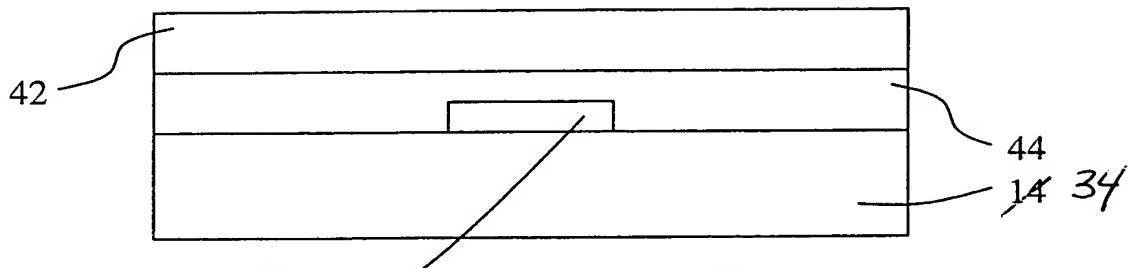


FIG. 4A

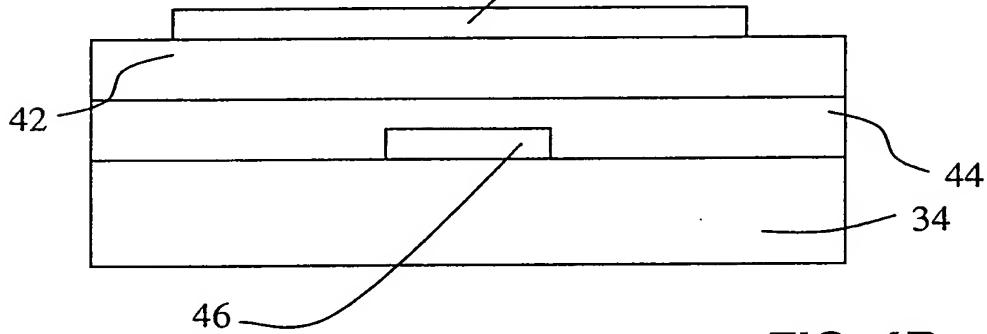


FIG. 4B

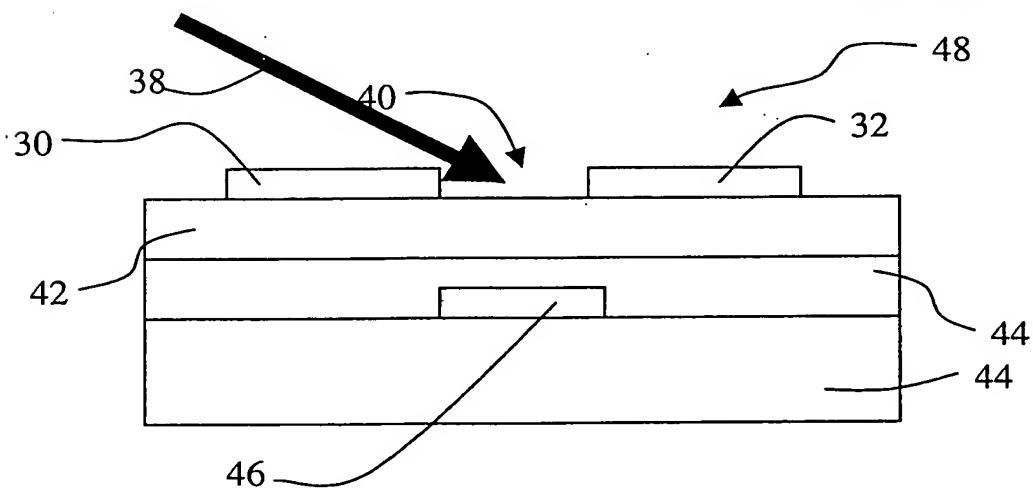


FIG. 4C



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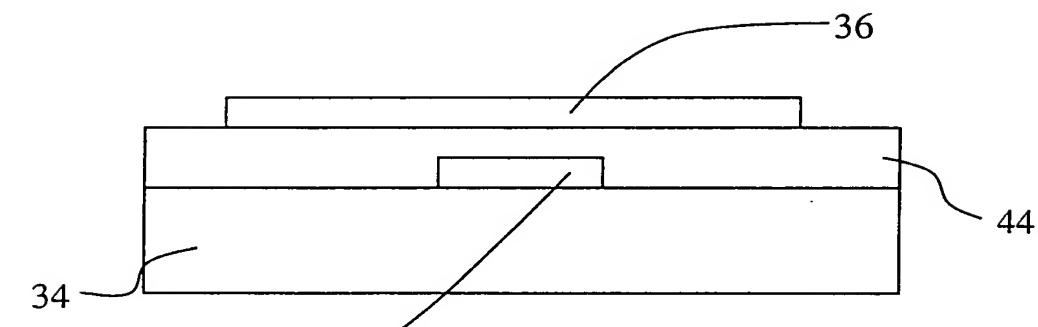


FIG. 5A

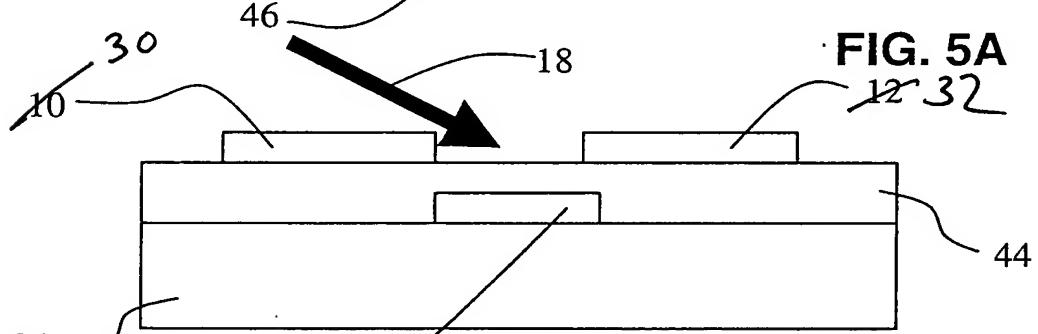


FIG. 5B

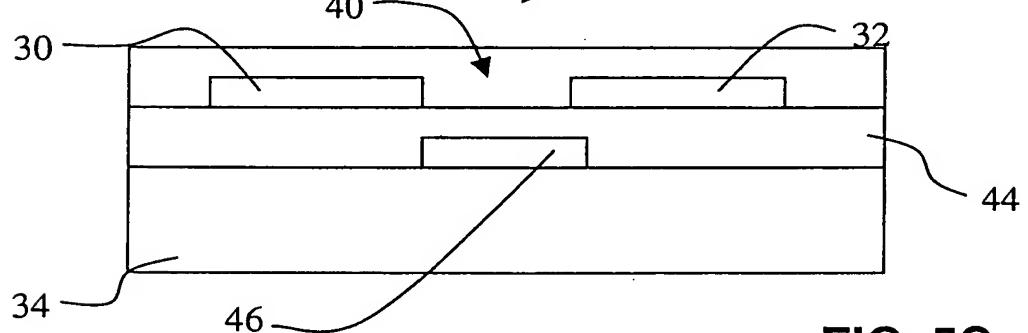


FIG. 5C



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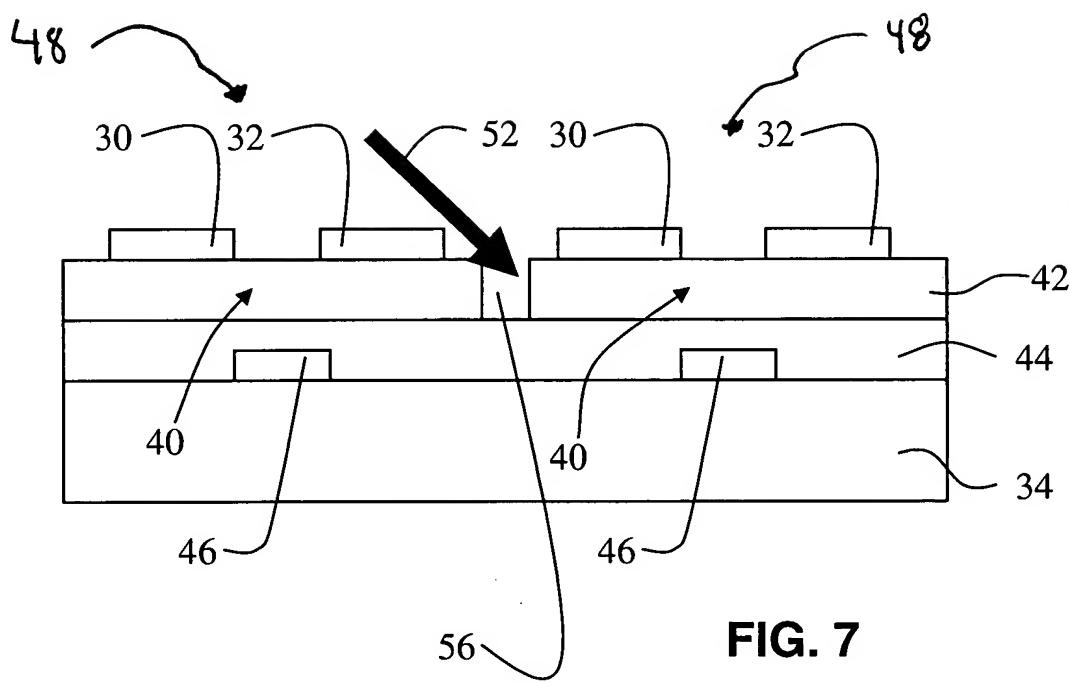


FIG. 7